

In order to broaden the literary experience for all of us, you are required to share your historical readings with the class on the Recently Read Discussion Board. Your posting should identify the title, author, and date of publication for the myths, folk tales or fairy tales you selected and include a brief description and brief analysis. Please point out any alterations or omissions. This is intended to provide information to classmates who have not read or viewed the work previously. Your personal comments are welcome; evidence of your own thought and reactions should be included.

## Hansel and Gretel

Hansel and Gretel by Brothers Grimm with pictures by Lisbeth Zwerger, translated by Elizabeth D. Crawford, published in 1979. I believe this book was originally published in German. The pictures are all on the right side of the book, with the accompanying text on the left. The illustrations look like water color with a fairly stereotypical blond, rose-cheeked pair and the green faced witch with black pointy hat. The text has more elaboration than other versions I've read of this story. They mention new little details such as Hansel turning back to scatter first white pebbles and then, fruitlessly, bread crumbs, and he covers this action up by saying he was looking at his kitten on the roof. To which the stepmother replies that it is just the sun reflecting off the chimney. There's also an added scene where the duo are trying to get home, laden with riches from the dead witch's house, and encounter a duckling that helps them across a river.

Hansel and Gretel by the Brothers Grimm, retold and illustrated by Rachel Isadora, published in 2009. Compared to the book above, this version of the tale has some immediate differences that are apparent to me off the bat. The art looks like collage, with the characters all looking very African. There are very bright colors and interesting patterns. Some of the pages have the art nearly over shadowing the text. The text font is larger, with pictures on both sides of the page. Of the text, there are some definite simplification of details. For example, Hansel sneaks out side to collect pebbles, but there is no description of why, or how he can see the pebbles, or what color they are. In the Zwerger version, the moonlight allows him to see the white pebbles outside, which is how he knows that they would be good to use for the next night. This version only has the picture giving you the moonlight effect and the white pebbles. The witch is stereotypically green faced. After slaying the witch, there's no description of them finding the treasure, nor how they got home, just a happy end scene.

Overall, both versions were very similar, with small details included. However, the Isadora version I felt was far more scarce on textual details and more on the illustrations being an important part of the story. Both versions have very beautiful illustrations, but I think the Zwerger version was a better adaptation.